COMICS × MUSIC ★ THE BIRTH OF A GREAT COLLABORATION!

COMIC & MUSIC

佐原ミズ × スキマスイッチ

Mizu Sahara × Sukimaswitch

1ST ONE SHOT STORY SERIALIZATION START!

I will walk slowly and steadily

And, by my side ...

スキマ式。

Sukima-shiki

A PRESENT TO MARK THE FIRST STORY!

A book card with this color image goes to fifty people. Apply on page 183!

OOHASHI TAKUYA (from Sukima Switch)

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

on page 160 ♪

1st SONG ♪ TSUKIMIGAOKA (From the album "Evening Breeze Blend")

ON SUNDAYS, I WANTED TO HANG OUT FOR LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE...
NO WAY, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY!?
I'VE GOT A LECTURE FIRST THING MONDAY.
YEAH, AND I'VE GOT A REPORT TO FINISH...
Sorry!
MUST BE NICE, USAMI.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GRADES, SINCE YOU CAN TAKE OVER YOUR FAMILY'S DUMPLING SHOP...
IN ORDER TO DELAY, EVEN IF IT WAS JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE,
THE START OF ANOTHER NORMAL WEEK, ANOTHER MONDAY...

I'M BACK...
IT'S NOT THAT I HATE DUMPLINGS...
HEY, AKI!
HERE'S YOUR FATHER'S NEW ONE.
TRY IT OUT!
I REALLY RESPECT THEM.
AKI SAID IT WAS GOOD.
HONEY,
Oh, yeah?
FOR DECADES, MY FOLKS HAVE CARRIED ON THE FAMILY BUSINESS.
Really? Great!
IT'S GOOD!
AH!
...BUT, HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS—

munch
munch
munch
BEING ABLE TO SEE YOUR OWN FUTURE IS REALLY...
VERY LONELY...
.....
I CAN COUNT ON ONE HAND THE NUMBER OF TIMES I'VE ATTENDED FIRST HOUR ON MONDAYS.
I DON'T KNOW ANYONE HERE.

JUST SHOWING UP ALL OF A SUDDEN...
TURNED OUT REALLY DULL, AFTER ALL.
DUMPLING COOKS DON'T NEED FOLKLORE, I BET.
STRANGE TO SEE YOU HERE, USAMI.
I THOUGHT YOU'D DROPPED FIRST HOUR LECTURE
SHUT UP.
HUH?

HM?
...
USAMI, YOUR FAMILY...
RUNS A DUMPLING SHOP?

WOULD YOU TRADE WITH ME?
WHOA. THAT'S GREAT!
Y...
YEAH, WE DO ...

Yep!
SMILE
SMILE
SMILE
TRADE?

Amazing!
I'VE NEVER HAD SOY FISH LIKE THIS BEFORE!
Delicious!
THIS IS NOTHING LIKE STORE-BOUGHT DUMPLINGS!
YEP!
SO FROM MORNING TO NIGHT IT'S FISH, FISH, FISH
OH?
SO YOUR DAD'S A COOK, KINOSHITA?
AH, THANKS.
THERE'S SEAFOOD CUSTARD, TOO.
WHEN I WAS A KID I HAD SQUID FOR SNACK TIME!
HOW SO!?
LUCKY YOU!
MY DAD HATES SWEETS, SO EVEN TO THIS DAY I HAVE TO SNEAK OUT AND GO TO THE STORE FOR THEM
That does suck
SQUID...

WOULD YOU!?
IF YOU EAT THEM AT SCHOOL, YOU WON'T GET CAUGHT, RIGHT?
.....
WANT ME TO BRING MORE DUMPLINGS...?
I WISH I'D BEEN BORN INTO YOUR FAMILY, USAMI.
THEN WE'LL MAKE IT MONDAYS, DURING THE SAME CLASS.
EVERY WEEK, ESPECIALLY COME MONDAY, WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT HAVING TO REPEAT THE SAME OLD ROUTINE I'D GET REALLY DEPRESSED.
I GO HOME, HELP OUT AT THE DUMPLING SHOP, EAT MY MEALS, AND GO TO SLEEP.
I GO TO COLLEGE AND LEARN THINGS THAT DON'T MATTER TO MY FUTURE.

I SEE.
SO YOU'VE ALREADY DECIDED WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO, USAMI?
WELL, I'M THE ONLY SON.
I HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN DILIGENT IN MY STUDIES, SO I'LL PROBABLY WORK IN THE DUMPLING SHOP
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A SMALL VARIATION, I'M GRATEFUL FOR IT...
EH, THAT'S NICE! MR. DUMPLING MAKER...
PICK ME, PICK ME!
PICK YOU?

TO BE YOUR WIFE!
MAYBE...
Ha! Ha! What a picture! Ha! Ha! Ha!
BUT ... THESE REALLY ARE GREAT.
This is bliss!

THAT HE CAN STAND IN THE SAME PLACE EVERY DAY.
MY DAD CAN SEE MY MOM'S HAPPY FACE...
Oh yeah?
Honey, this is delicious.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE ...
YEAH RIGHT...
Eh...
SURROUNDED BY GIRLS, AS ALWAYS—
I HEARD HE'S A TOTAL PLAYER—
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL AROUND HIM TOO, KINOSHITA!
AH!
THAT'S THE ASSISTANT TEACHER, ISOYAMA
EH...

.....
OH, AKI, YOU'RE NOT GOING OUT? IT'S SUNDAY.
I...
I JUST HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING TO DO TODAY...
WELL, THAT'S RARE.
HONEY,
I HEARD FROM AKIYOSHI THAT THERE'S A GIRL WHO LOVES TO EAT OUR DUMPLINGS.
Oh, my!
I CAN HEAR YOU!
Geez...

GETTING UP SO EARLY ON MONDAY...
REALLY FEELS WEIRD.
THAT'S ENOUGH! DON'T TOUCH ME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, USAMI?
PR...
PRE-TENDING TO BE THE WALL...

I DID KNOW THAT THERE WERE OTHER GIRLS, BUT...
WELL...
I WONDER WHY I DID IT.
I GUESS I WAS TRICKED BY HIS SUIT..
Y...YOU SEE, SINCE MY DAD'S A CHEF, I'M ALWAYS LOOKING AT GUYS IN APRONS.
SO HIS SUIT SEEMED LIKE A NICE CHANGE...
ANYWAY, I'M GOING HOME EARLY TODAY.

HAVE YOU EVER WORN A SUIT?
MM?
HEY, DAD.
DO YOU WANT TO WORK IN AN OFFICE?
WHY?
NOPE.
AND WHEN THE MOON COMES OUT, YOU CAN KICK BACK AND WATCH IT WITH A DRINK IN HAND.
THERE'S NO RUSH TO DRIVE TO WORK.
THE DUMPLING SHOP IS GREAT.
NO, BUT...

AND I THINK...
PEOPLE CRY LESS.
WHY IS IT THAT PARENTS ...
ANYWAY, EVEN THOUGH I SAY THAT, I'M NOT GOING TO LIMIT YOU.
YOU GO AND LIVE YOUR LIFE LIKE YOU WANT TO.
O...
OH...
CAN TAKE ONE LOOK AT YOU AND KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON...?
I LIKE THE SHOP WELL ENOUGH.

Open up, Isoyamaaa! ♡
KNOCK KNOCK
EVEN IF I CAN'T WEAR SUITS...
I'LL PROBABLY KEEP WEARING ...
CLICK
?
Die you pervert teacher!
BLAAST
GYAHH!
A T-SHIRT AND DIRTY JEANS...
WORN-OUT SANDALS ON MY FEET...

USAMI...
...LIKE I'VE ALWAYS LIVED.
IS TODAY THE FULL MOON?
MOON GAZING?
WELL ...
NOT MUCH...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO MOON GAZING?
WHAT'S UP?
THE MOON IS REALLY WANING...

WATCHING THE CRESCENT MOON IS REALLY NICE, TOO.
I LIKE THIS MORE THAN THE FULL MOON.
I won't type it though.
ISN'T IT?
IF YOU SAY STUFF LIKE THAT
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY DUMPLINGS.
rattle
YOU LIKE THE MOON, USAMI?
Really I didn't think you were the type
Hmm
I can't think of anyone...
...who the moon suits more than you, Usami.
ALL RIGHTY, EAT UP.

WOW, THIS IS GREAT!
REALLY!? I MADE IT MYSELF.
WILL DO!
CHOMP
NO WAY. IT'S AWESOME!
SO, I'VE EARNED YOUR RESPECT?
TOTALLY EARNED IT!
PICK ME, THEN, PICK ME!
PICK YOU?
FOR YOUR HUSBAND.

USAMI, YOU WEIRDO.
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?
BECAUSE I LIKE YOUR DUMP-LINGS?
YEAH,
THERE'S THAT, AND ALSO...
SINCE I'VE BEEN WITH YOU, KINOSHITA,
I'VE GROWN TO LIKE MONDAYS ...

HMM...
HUH? YOU'RE GOING HOME ALREADY, USAMI?
ON SUNDAYS I NOW HEAD HOME BEFORE ANYONE ELSE.
Later
YEAH.
I HAVEN'T MADE MY DUMPLINGS FOR FOLKLORE YET
.....
What the?

A KIMONO FOR YOUR COMING OF AGE CELEBRATION?
AND WHEN THE MOON IS VISIBLE IN THE SKY...
I'LL TAKE YOU AND SOME DUMPLINGS ...
BUT THAT'S NOT UNTIL NEXT YEAR, ISN'T IT KIND OF EARLY?
YEAH. TOMORROW I'M GOING TO GO LOOKING FOR ONE WITH MY MOM.
NOPE. A SUIT.
ARE YOU GOING TO WEAR A HAKAMA?
BETTER THAN BEING LATE!
So you were worried about that...
Ah
Yep
AND GO GAZE AT IT.

TSUKIMIGAOKA

("MOON GAZER HILL")

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY SUKIMA-SWITCH

WE WANT TO SEE EACH OTHER MORE SO WE DON'T HAVE
THE TIME TO WASTE ON STUFF LIKE BLINKING
I WANT TO BE RIGHT NEXT TO YOU
I WANT TO BE TOUCHING YOU

YOUR SMILING FACE SOON ENOUGH WASHED AWAY MY
WASTED DAYS LOOK
NOW I'VE COME TO LIKE MELANCHOLY MONDAYS, TOO

YOU ALWAYS BRING ME DELICIOUS THINGS TO EAT
I'LL EVEN EAT THE THINGS YOU DON'T LIKE FOR YOU

THE MOON'S COMING OUT TONIGHT LET'S GO OUT AND
BREATHE THE FRESH AIR EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE
I'LL TAKE YOU AND YOU ALONE TO A PLACE I PICKED OUT
FOR US

I MAY LOVE EATING, I MAY WEAR SANDALS AND JEANS,
AND I ONLY SHINE THE SECOND YOU PASS BY

WE WANT TO SEE EACH OTHER MORE, SO WE DON'T HAVE
THE TIME TO WASTE ON STUFF LIKE SNEEZING
I WANT TO BE RIGHT NEXT TO YOU OHH!
I ALWAYS WANT TO BE TOUCHING YOU
DON'T YOU INTERFERE WITH US!
YOU LOOK THE OTHER WAY TOO MOON

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COMICS×MUSIC

THE BIRTH OF A GREAT COLLABORATION!

2nd SONG = DOUSHITA TOASTER

(From the album "Natsugumo Noise")

GENRE FUSION! A SHORT STORY SERIES

スキマッチ

Sukimasshichi

TOKITA SHINTAROU (from Sukima Switch)

SPECIAL INTERVIEW on page 200 ♪

Mizu Sahara×Sukimaswitch

COMIC 佐原ミズ × STORY スキマスイッチ

O... OUR LOSSES ARE—
UM...
WELL ...
SO...
SO AS YOU CAN SEE, WELL...
I CAN'T MAKE SENSE OF THIS!
PRESENT IT PROPERLY!!
I'LL PRESENT IT.
S...
SORRY.

OUR COMPANY HAS BEEN WELL-MANAGED FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, HOWEVER ..
PRESERVING THE STATUS QUO AS WE HAVE BEEN DOES NOT LEAD TO GROWTH.
PLEASE CONSIDER THESE LOSSES
AN INVESTMENT IN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS OF OUR COMPANY
IF WE WORRY OVER OUR LOSSES AND NEGLECT TO CULTURE NEW VENTURES,
OUR COMPANY WON'T SEE ANY GROWTH.
.....

I'M SORRY, ASANO.
I DROPPED THE BALL AGAIN..
I'VE TOLD YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN.
YOU HAVE TO BE FIRM WITH THOSE STUBBORN OLD MEN..
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THIS COMPANY, NOW?
HONESTLY,
NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME GOES BY,
YOU'RE STILL USELESS

I'M NOT LIKE YOU, ASANO!
I CAN'T DO EVERY-THING!
YEAH, TRUE ENOUGH.
SLAM
EXCUSE ME!
I HAVE A GAMBLE GOING ON.
.....

BEEP
BEEP
06:30
BEEP
FOR A YEAR NOW,
CLICK
SLEEPY
EVERY MORNING, I MAKE THE SAME WAGER...
BRISK
swish
swish
swish
BRISK

YAWN
THE ONE I BOUGHT...
..REALLY IS PLAIN...
NICE, ASANO!
YOU HAVE GREAT TASTE IN TIES.

MAYBE I SHOULD WEAR THIS ONE EVERY NOW AND THEN...
!
Fwip
OH NO, IT'S LEAKING WATER!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
RUB
RUB
swish

YOU'RE AMAZING, ASANO.
THERE AREN'T THAT MANY GUYS AROUND WHO LIKE TO CLEAN.
...STOPPED SMOKING FOR ME.
YOU ACTUALLY ..

YOU'RE AMAZING, ASANO.
YOU REALLY CAN DO ANYTHING, HUH?
YOU CAN DO ANYTHING, ASANO, BUT...
THAT GUY CAN'T DO ANYTHING, SO...

I CAN HANDLE THIS MUCH!
Hmph!
SNIFF
SNIFF
?
Look. they're dirty.
I DO EVERY-THING...
I DO EVERY-THING I CAN TO LOOK GOOD.
BECAUSE IF I DO, I'LL BE ABLE TO SUCCEED.

FAST
SWIRL
SWIRL
SWIRL
.....
SO YOU'LL LIKE ME MORE,
AND SO YOU'LL DISLIKE ME EVEN A LITTLE BIT LESS...
I LOVED YOU TOO MUCH.
All right
I LOVED YOU, I LOVED YOU...

I GAMBLE...
THAT I WON'T FORGET YET.
THAT TOASTER IS SO CUTE.
HEY, LOOK, ASANO.
IT'LL MAKE HO TOAST.
DON'T WORRY.
SINCE IT'S REFURBISHED, IT WON'T HAVE MUCH OF A WARRANTY, RIGHT?

WHEN THIS THING BREAKS,
click
AND WON'T TOAST BREAD...
I'LL FORGET IT ALL.
I'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT YOU...
ASANO ...

GOOD-BYE, ASANO..
EVERY LAST THING...
ASANO, LOOK AT THIS.
YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD, ASANO.
I'LL FORGET ...
...AND FACE THE FUTURE.
IT KEEPS TAKING LONGER AND LONGER ..
.....
sst sst sst..

SST SST
H... HEY...
ARE YOU REALLY BROKEN?
SST SST SST
SST SST SST
BOOM
!!
SMACK SMACK SMACK
HEY!
IF YOU DON'T EJECT THE BREAD IT'LL BE TOTALLY BURNT!

PUFF
PUFF
ASANO...
IT'S BROKEN ...
BROKEN ...
THE SMOKE ...

IS PITCH BLACK, SMELLS LIKE CHAR,
AND STINGS ...
POP

smoke
smoke
smoke
THIS IS...
TOASTED... ISN'T IT...?

ASANO.
I APOLOGIZE ... FOR BEING SO RUDE TO YOU YESTERDAY
I GAVE IT SOME THOUGHT, AND I REALLY DON'T THINK I'M SUITED FOR THIS JOB
SO...
LETTER OF RESIGNATION
I'M GOING TO RESIGN FROM THE COMPANY.

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I CAN'T DO, AS WELL
EH?
I CAN'T DO IT...
SO I STRUGGLE EVERY DAY IN ORDER TO...
AND TOMORROW MORNING...
....
EVERYONE DOES THAT, RIGHT?
SMACK
SAVE YOUR TRUMP CARD—!
FOR WHEN YOU MAKE A MUCH BIGGER MISTAKE!
I'LL MAKE TOAST AGAIN.
GAH!

Y...
YES, SIR...
HURRY AND GET BACK TO WORK.
DON'T JUST SLACK OFF.
TO FACE THE FUTURE, I'LL TOAST BREAD...
Y
Yes sir!
Eeek!
Hurry and get back to your seat
IN THAT BROKEN-DOWN TOASTER.

DOUSHITA TOASTER

("WHAT HAPPENED, TOASTER?")

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY SUKIMA SWITCH

WHAT HAPPENED? DID IT BREAK...?
IT WON'T TOAST BREAD ANYMORE
THIS TOASTER WAS MY ONLY
CONNECTION TO YOU

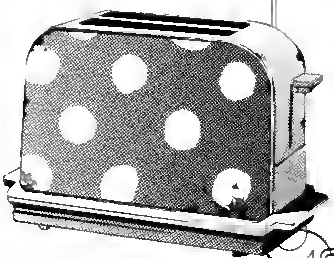
THE THINGS WE BOUGHT TOGETHER
HAVE DISAPPEARED ONE BY ONE,
AND IN THE END ONLY THIS WAS LEFT

I'LL TRY TOASTING JUST ONCE MORE
AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK,
I'LL GIVE UP AND DO AS YOU SAY

THAT'S RIGHT,
NEARLY A YEAR HAS GONE BY NOW
IT'S ENOUGH ALREADY,
I CAN TURN MY ATTENTION TO THE FUTURE

I USED TO THINK THAT WAY,
BUT HERE I AM IN THE END,
IT'S BROKEN, BUT HERE I AM, NOT FIXING IT

IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR IT TO TOAST
IT'S FRIGHTENING, WATCHING
WHILE I WAIT TO SEE HOW IT WILL TURN OUT,
I GUESS I'LL CONTINUE ON LIKE THIS



IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR IT TO TOAST
IT'S FRIGHTENING, WATCHING
BUT IF I DON'T DO AS I'VE DECIDED,
I'LL WIND UP NEVER MOVING ON

GOING ON LIKE THIS,
AND THROWING THINGS AWAY,
SHOULD BE FINE, RIGHT...?

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COMICS×MUSIC★
THE BIRTH OF A GREAT COLLABORATION!

My likes and your dislikes.

Your likes and my dislikes are contrary.

スキマ式

Sukima-shiki

GENRE FUSION! A SHORT STORY SERIES

COMIC STORY
佐原ミズ×スキマスイッチ
Mizu Sahara×Sukimaswitch

3rd SONG 「IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU」(From the album "Natsugumo Naise")

HMPH!
GYAAAH!
Call your mother.
MY LIKES INCLUDE ...
...PUTTING MY BRATTY LITTLE BROTHER IN THE SCORPION HOLD.
Tch Weakling!
That hurts!
INO'S PICKING ON MEEE!
WAAAH...

I'M HOME!
...AND ALSO...
AND I PICKED UP SOME TAKOYAKI!
...THE TAKOYAKI MY BIG BROTHER SOMETIMES BUYS FOR ME.
OOh!
WELL AREN'T YOU CONSIDERATE!
This guy!
Stupid
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS
SHOULD I INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME GIRLS IN MY CLASS?
Call your

.....
GOOD EVENING.
.....
WELCOME ...
HEY, INO!
COME OVER HERE AND EAT YOUR DINNER!

I'LL PASS.
I HATE CURRY WITH EGGPLANT IN IT.
MY DISLIKES INCLUDE ...
...EVERY-THING ABOUT EGG-PLANTS.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS SELFISH ATTITUDE!
HONESTLY!
KNOCK IT OFF, BEFORE I GET REALLY MAD!
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH.
AS OUR PALATES MATURE, OUR PREFERENCES WILL CHANGE.
AND I THINK IN THE PROCESS WE'LL LOSE THOSE INTENSE LIKES AND DISLIKES
OH... WELL, THANKS.
NO ONE WOULD EVER GUESS YOU'RE THE SAME AGE AS INO!
BUT REALLY, YOU'RE SO MATURE, SHIKAO.
AND ALSO...
.....

...THIS BOY MY BROTHER'S TUTORING...
munch munch
...THE COMPOSED-LOOKING SHIKAO.
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH.
ONE'S PALATE SHALL CHANGE...
WHO'S THAT AN IMPER-SONATION OF?
SHI-KAO!
SO ANNOYING! ALWAYS PRETEND-ING TO BE THE GOOD GUY!
PRETENDING TO BE THE GOOD GUY, HUH?
THEN I DON'T LIKE HIM EITHER.
MY BEST FRIEND MANAMI.
MY LIKES INCLUDE...
Yeah!
DOO DA DEE DA DEE~

UGH! ANOTHER ESSAY TEXT...
ESSAY TEXT? WHAT'S THAT?
WELL, A WHILE AGO MY BIG BROTHER...
AFTER I WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF BUYING YOU A CELL PHONE, YOU'RE NOT EVEN USING IT!
BUT WRITING TEXTS AND STUFF'S SUCH A PAIN.
SHIKAO, WILL YOU PLEASE SEND HER SOME TEXTS?
Just once in a while would be okay
OTHERWISE BOTH THE CELL PHONE AND ME ARE JUST TOO PITIFUL
!
IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH ME...
EVER SINCE,
THAT GUY'S BEEN MOCKING ME BY SENDING THESE TEXTS EVERY DAY

WELL,
IT'S PISSING ME OFF, SO I'LL JUST SEND SOME VAGUE RESPONSE AS IF I READ IT
beep beep
beep beep
beep
There aren't even any emoticons?
Scary huh?
WORSE YET, THEY'RE SO LONG. THEY'RE LIKE ESSAYS!

SHIKAO'S LONG TEXTS.
To Shikao
Sub RE
Okay
I'LL JUST SEND "OKAY." LIKE USUAL... THERE.
MY DISLIKES INCLUDE...

MANAMI, YOU HAVE CLUB PRACTICE TODAY?
AND YOU HAVE TODAY OFF, RIGHT?
WHAAA!?

GOING HOME ALONE IS SO BORING...
SHIKAO ...?

UH— UMM, HEY
WHY ARE YOU HERE? DID YOU NEED SOME-THING?

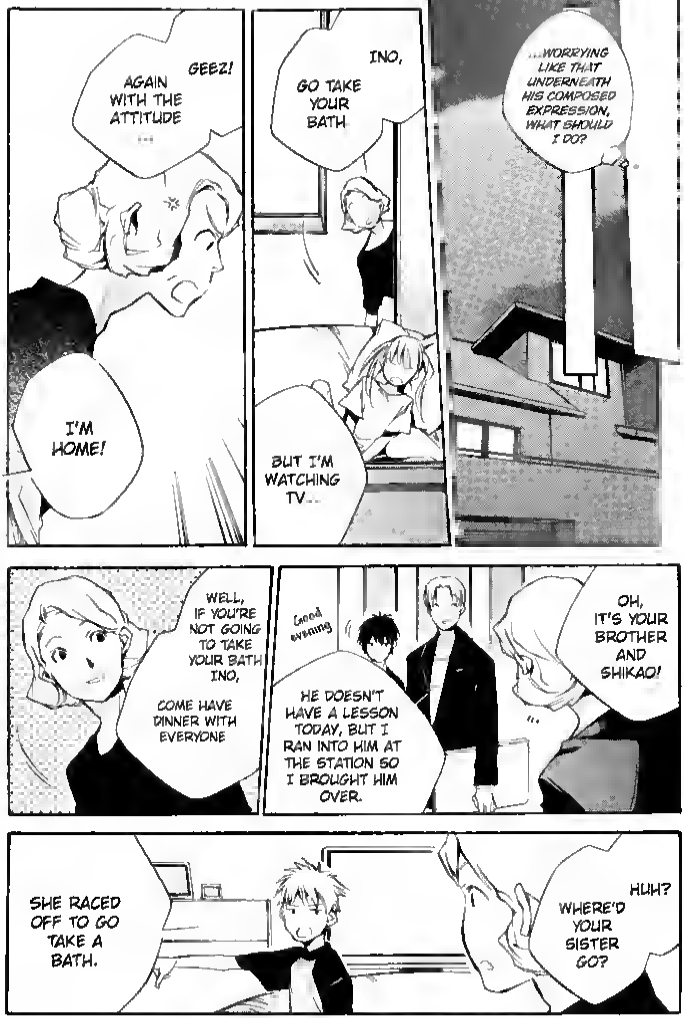
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR, BUT YOUR RESPONSE TO MY TEXT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY. AND...
Response to his text?
?
UMM..
WOULD IT BE OKAY TO CALL YOU BY JUST YOUR FIRST NAME?
hUh?
CALL ME HOWEVER YOU WANT
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....INO.
Bright red
WhAT The hell'S WITh hIM!?
LATER, WEIRDO.
Hmph
I lied
SO BYE!
LOOK, I LIKE TO WALK HOME ALONE IN PEACE AND QUIET.

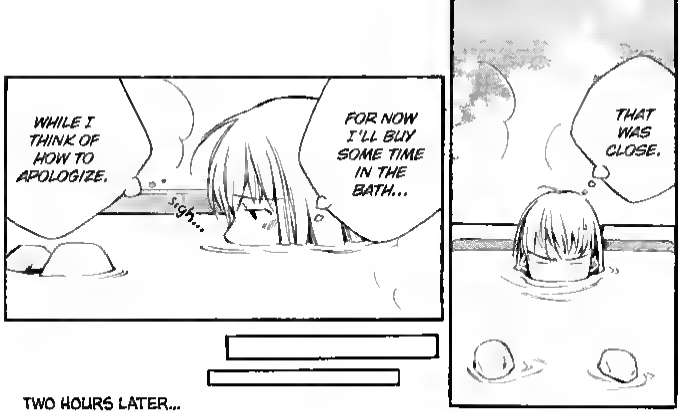
...morning Ino-san. I recall hearing you say recently that you hate rainy days, so it's good today's sunny, isn't it? The whole region's ...warmer.
SO LONG...
LIKE I CARE ABOUT THE WEATHER..
...irked
BUT WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT MY RESPONSE TO HIS TEXT? OH YEAH, I ONLY READ THREE LINES OF IT...
click
ALL I SAID WAS "OKAY."
UMM... HOW FAR IN DID I READ...?
"SORRY FOR THE SUDDEN CHANGE IN SUBJECT, BUT..."
"THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY TO YOU"
"I REALLY LIKE YOU."
"WOULD YOU PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME?"
Haha...
BUT THAT'S...
SAY WHAT?
CLACK

WHIP
A— ANYWAY, I GOTTA FIND MANAMI!
Wh... Wh-Wh-Wh- WHAT SHOULD I DO!?
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!?
HE... HE'S ALREADY GONE...
HEY, UMM!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE MANAMI IS!?
SHE SAID SHE WAS GONNA TAKE A BREAK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BUILDING
WHOOM...
THANKS!

M... MANAMI
I NEED YOUR HELP, MANAMI
!
...SECRETIVELY TYPING OUT A TEXT TO THE PERSON SHE LIKES.
SOMETIMES I SEE MANAMI...
.....

CAREFULLY CHOOSING HER WORDS...
FIXING IT COUNTLESS TIMES...
DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES...
...TO BE LIKED BY HIM, EVEN JUST A LITTLE MORE.
WHAT IF...
THE GUY MANAMI LIKES ONLY READ THE FIRST THREE LINES BEFORE FLIPPANTLY RESPONDING...?
I'D DEFINITELY GO PUT HIM IN THE SCORPION HOLD...
IF SHIKAO IS ALSO ..


...WORRYING LIKE THAT UNDERNEATH HIS COMPOSED EXPRESSION, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
INO, GO TAKE YOUR BATH
BUT I'M WATCHING TV...
GEEZ! AGAIN WITH THE ATTITUDE...
I'M HOME!
OH, IT'S YOUR BROTHER AND SHIKAO!
Good evening
HE DOESN'T HAVE A LESSON TODAY, BUT I RAN INTO HIM AT THE STATION SO I BROUGHT HIM OVER.
WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE YOUR BATH INO, COME HAVE DINNER WITH EVERYONE
HUH? WHERE'D YOUR SISTER GO?
SHE RACED OFF TO GO TAKE A BATH.



TWO HOURS LATER...

I SEE
THAT'S ADMIRABLE
WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE BATH?
You were in a really long time.
SELF-REVIEW...
WHAT WAS IT...
...THAT I HATED ABOUT SHIKAO, AGAIN?
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP

THE TOWEL'S GOTTEN WARM, I SHOULD CHANGE IT...
HOLD ON
I DIDN'T MEAN IT!
HUH?
I ALSO HATE READING LONG TEXTS, SO...
I NEVER READ MOST OF THEM
TODAY TOO I ONLY READ UP UNTIL THE "IT'S GOOD TODAY'S SUNNY" PART AND RESPONDED WITH "OKAY."
SO...
I DIDN'T MEAN IT.
I HATED THAT COMPOSED EXPRESSION OF YOURS
IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE ALWAYS TRYING TO MAKE MY BROTHER AND MOM THINK YOU WERE MORE ADULT THAN ME

I'M SORRY.
I'M ALSO SORRY, FOR MISUNDER-STANDING.
I SEE ...
.....
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE TOLD ME THEY LIKED ME...

I DID SOMETHING REALLY CRUEL...
MORNING INO!
Oh MORNING, MANAMI!
I DON'T THINK SO...
WHAT? ANOTHER ESSAY TEXT?
Sub
Morning
It's good today is sunny again, huh?
- Shikao
HMM?
THEY'VE GOTTEN SHORTER!
THAT'S GOOD!

I'M HOME.
WHY?
LOOK, INO!
I GOT TICKETS FOR THE OPENING PRO-WRESTLING MATCH!
REALLY!?
WHOA!
hOORAY!
You're the best!

THAT'S GREAT.
Ah I'm starving!
WHY...?
WELL, I'LL GO STRAIGHT FROM CAMPUS.
SO LET'S MEET AT GATE FOUR AT SIX.
OKAY!

AGAIN...
5/13 08:15
Shikao
Morning
e careful at th
pro-wrestling
match today
- Sh
I WONDER ...
...WHAT EXACTLY IT IS ABOUT ME THAT SHIKAO LIKES...?
IT'S EVEN A NORMAL LENGTH.

It's already well past six...
HE'S LATE...
I WONDER IF HE CAN'T FIND ME CAUSE THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE.
HEY, YOU THERE!
ARE YOU WITH YOUR FAMILY?
N-no...
I'M WAITING, BUT THEY HAVEN'T COME YET...
ARE YOU A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT?
UH... YEAH...

hUh?
HOLD ON!
YANK
COME WITH ME FOR NOW
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO BE LOITERING AROUND HERE WITHOUT A GUARDIAN
I WONDER IF THAT'S THE TRUTH
PLEASE LET GO OF HER.
WITH YOU? AREN'T YOU A MIDDLE-SCHOOLER TOO?
COME WITH ME.
is just adding to the problem!
A middle-school companion
I'M ESCORTING HER.
I HAVE PERMISSION FROM HER PARENTS TO PICK HER UP.
IF YOU'D LIKE, I DON'T MIND IF YOU CONTACT THEM, BUT...

IN EXCHANGE ...
IF WE'RE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT LATE FOR THE OPENING, CAN I EXPECT YOU TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY?
Only good at talking back...
Honestly kids these days
O...
ONCE IT'S OVER, GO HOME STRAIGHT-AWAY
HE HAD AN IMPORTANT LECTURE, SO I CAME TO GIVE YOU THE TICKETS FOR HIM
UH...
I HEARD YOU WERE MEETING AT GATE FOUR SO IT TOOK A WHILE TO FIND YOU...
SORRY
Ah!
WH... WHERE'S MY BROTHER?

I WAS WAY OFF...
I'M AMAZED YOU FOUND ME
But you really saved me
I KNEW YOU WERE IMPRESSIVE, BUT...
YEAH.
I'M CONFIDENT I CAN FIND YOU NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE...
WELL THEN, TAKE CARE GOING HOME...

W... WILL YOU WATCH IT WITH ME?
Umm
Well only if you want to...
IT'D BE BORING BY MYSELF...
IT'S AN ARGENTINE BACK BREAKER!!!

WHY?
.....
EVEN THOUGH I DID SOMETHING REALLY CRUEL TO YOU...
WHY ARE YOU SMILING AT ME?
.....

BECAUSE I LIKE YOU.
I'M NOT SAYING IT'S NOT PAINFUL.
WELL... THERE'S NO RATIONALE FOR IT, SO I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT WELL, BUT...
IF YOU CALLED MY NAME...
I'D PROBABLY GO ANYWHERE TO MEET YOU

I'D NEVER FORGIVE THAT PERSON
I EVER FOUND OUT SOMEONE WAS BEING MEAN TO YOU...
IF..
NO MATTER HOW SCARY A SITUATION I ENCOUNTER...
NOTHING COULD BE SCARIER THAN HEARING YOU SAY YOU HATE ME.
EVEN IF IT'S PAINFUL, IF YOU'RE WITH ME...
I THINK
I'LL PROBABLY BE SMILING.

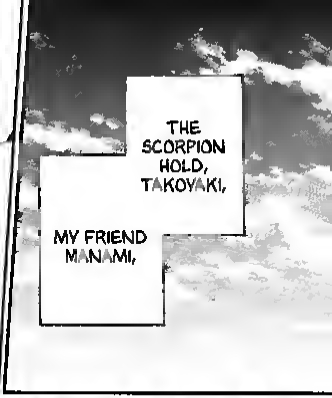
BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET LOST
THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE, HUH?
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
Thank you for attending today's event.
When leaving ...
O..
OKAY.
.....

IF YOU ...
DON'T HATE THE IDEA...
YOU ALWAYS LOOK LIKE YOU DON'T CARE...
BUT IN REALITY, THAT'S...
NOT THE CASE AT ALL, HUH...?

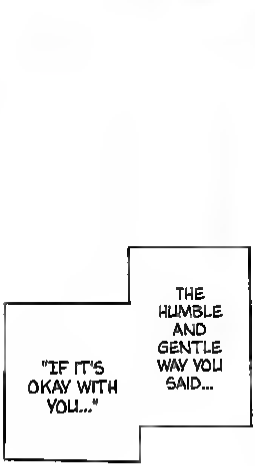
WELL, GOOD NIGHT..
THANKS FOR WALKING ME
SURE.
I... I KIND OF LIKE IT WHEN YOU SMILE.
I... I CAN'T YET THINK OF ANY OTHER REASON FOR IT THAN THAT, BUT
EARLIER, WHEN YOU SAID YOU LIKED ME, I WAS REALLY HAPPY.

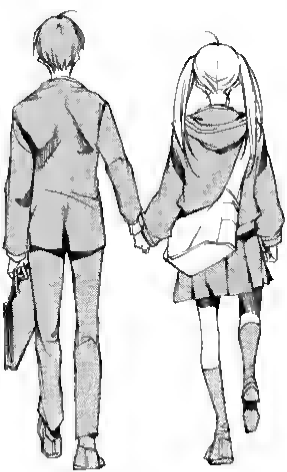
AND EVENTUALLY I'LL BE THE ONE TO SAY IT, SO...
I'LL FIND THINGS LIKE THAT, SLOWLY BUT SURELY,
IT MIGHT TAKE ME SOME TIME, BUT...
CAN YOU PLEASE WAIT UNTIL THEN?
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU...
I'LL ALWAYS ...
BE YOURS.
MY LIKES INCLUDE...

I'M HEADING OUT!
AND SHIKAO'S SHORT TEXTS.


THE SCORPION HOLD, TAKOYAKI,
MY FRIEND MANAMI,

AND ALSO...


"IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU..."
THE HUMBLE AND GENTLE WAY YOU SAID...



KIMI GA II NARA

("IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU")

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY SUKIMA SWITCH

EVEN IF YOU QUIETLY LEFT ME,
I'LL SURELY BE OKAY
MORE THAN THAT AVENUE...
MORE THAN ANYWHERE
EVEN IF IT'S FAR AWAY
I'LL UNDERSTAND

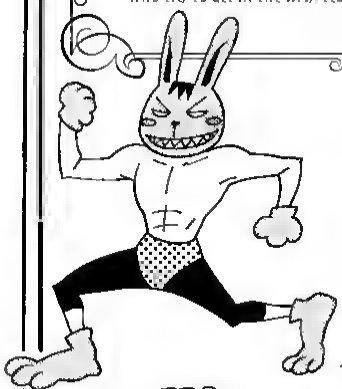
IF YOU SAY SO...
I'LL GO ANYWHERE TO MEET YOU
IF YOU SAY SO

YOU CALL MY NAME. I CRY OUT YOURS
IF BY ANY CHANCE THERE ARE PEOPLE
WHO TRY TO GET IN THE WAY, TELL ME
I'M BEGGING YOU

IF YOU SAY SO,
I COULD EVEN STAB A PERSON
IF YOU SAY SO

I'LL USE EVERYTHING
TO WATCH OVER YOU
ALL MY EYES AND EARS

IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU,
I'LL ALWAYS BE YOURS
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MINE
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU
IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, RIGHT?



LOVE TAKOYA[illegible] ♡

LOVE PRO-[illegible] ♡

LOVE SHIKAO?

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COMICS×MUSIC☆THE BIRTH OF A GREAT COLLABORATION!

4th SONG 「1+1」 (From the album "Evening Breeze Blend")

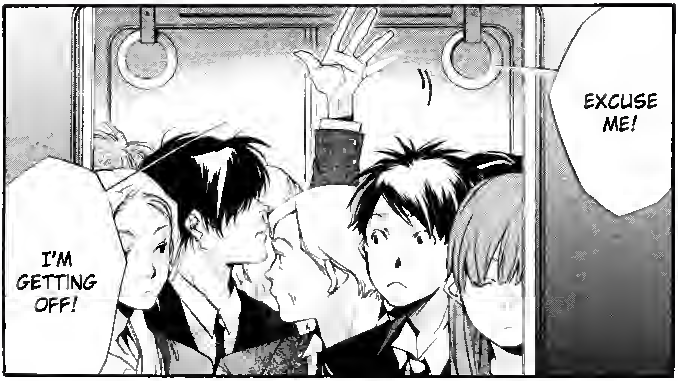
スキマ式。

Sukima-shiki

Mami Sahara×Sukimaswitch

COMIC STORY

佐原ミズ×スキマスイッチ


EXCUSE ME!
I'M GETTING OFF!

Phew
NEXT WEEKEND ...
...MARKS THE START OF MY RETIREMENT ...
KATHUNK
PANT
WHEEZE
KATHUNK

AND EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SUCH A HARD ROAD...
...NOW THAT THE END IS IN SIGHT, I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO MISS IT...
IT'S STRANGE ...
I'M HOME...

WELCOME HOME. YOU MUST BE TIRED.
NOW THAT I'M RETIRING, THERE'S SOMETHING THAT WORRIES ME.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BATHE FIRST?
SURE.
THAT IS..
HASN'T IT BECOME COMMONPLACE IN MODERN SOCIETY FOR OLDER COUPLES TO GET DIVORCED..?
THEN...
I'LL GO TAKE ONE NOW
WHEN A HUSBAND WHO SPENT ALL HIS DAYS AT THE OFFICE BEGINS SPENDING ALL DAY AT HOME...

...HIS WIFE WILL GROW TIRED OF HIM AND LEAVE...
DEAR,
I'VE PUT YOUR PAJAMAS OVER HERE.
OH.
OKAY.
I WONDER ...
.....
...IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET TIRED OF ME...

DEAR
I DON'T MIND IF YOU READ,
BUT PLEASE TURN OFF THE LIGHT BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP.
YOU ALWAYS FALL ASLEEP WHILE YOU'RE READING,
AND I HAVE TO TURN OFF THE LIGHT.

Y... YEAH, SORRY..
GOOD NIGHT.
I HONESTLY DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE...
GOOD NIGHT...
...TO BE CERTAIN YOU WON'T LEAVE ME...

HEY, DEAR!
IF YOU KEEP ON READING, YOU'LL MISS THE TRAIN
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SORRY, SORRY...
H. HEY, HONEY?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY HOBBIES ARE?
.....

WHY DO YOU ASK?
PERFECT.
READING, TAKING WALKS, LOOKING AT TROPICAL FISH...
...AND SOMETIMES LISTENING TO MUSIC
OH, IT'S NOTHING...
NOW I WISH YOU WOULDN'T GET IT SO PERFECT...
BUT...
.....
Cookbook Corner
STARTING NOW, I'LL KEEP A BUNCH OF LITTLE SECRETS FROM YOU.

I'M SURE YOU'D BE SURPRISED.
FOR INSTANCE, IF ONE DAY I SUDDENLY COOKED UP SOME COMPLICATED RECIPE,
UNTIL THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D LEAVE ME.
I'LL STUFF MYSELF FULL OF THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME...
I'LL TAKE THIS.
AND I WON'T BE FAZED BY THE RISE IN DIVORCES.

DEAR.
YOU FORGOT THE LIGHT YESTERDAY AS WELL...
SUMMER VEGETABLE CURRY
AH...
SORRY...
H... HONEY!
IS THERE SOMEWHERE YOU WANT TO GO? OR SOMETHING YOU WANT—
.....
I'M USED TO IT ALREADY IT'S FINE, FORGET IT .
TWIP

WE NEEDN'T CHANGE HOW WE LIVE
LET'S NOT WASTE IT
DON'T BE SILLY, YOU'RE GOING TO BE ON RETIREMENT SALARY SOON
.....
DEAR,
DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY DREAM IS?
.....

I WANT TO GAZE AT YOUR FACE ALL DAY LONG, DEAR...
YOUR DREAM?
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE WITHOUT ME...?
EH...
I THOUGHT THAT AFTER WE GOT MARRIED WE'D BE ABLE TO BE TOGETHER,
BUT YOU SPENT MOST OF YOUR TIME AT THE OFFICE
AND ONCE WE HAD CHILDREN
THEY TOOK UP ALL YOUR TIME ON YOUR DAYS OFF

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT WE'VE STOPPED DOING ALL THOSE THINGS
THAT USED TO BE SO HABITUAL FOR US?
NEW THINGS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, BUT...
THERE ARE SO MANY WONDERFUL THINGS AMONG THE OLD.
GOOD NIGHT...
THE MAN WHO'D SOONER READ A BOOK ABOUT FISH THAN COOKING..
THAT'S THE MAN I LOVE.
!
.....!

YES?
HEY, HONEY.
STARTING TODAY, I'VE DECIDED TO CALL YOU "CHIE".
JUST LIKE I USED TO...
WHY NOW?
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, "DEAR" AND "HONEY" AREN'T REALLY OUR NAMES
Did you read some strange article or something?
No
SO I'D LIKE YOU TO CALL ME TADASHI, AS WELL.

EVEN THOUGH...
I'M OFF, CHIE.
I..
WE USED TO SAY IT SO NATURALLY LONG AGO...
HAVE A GOOD DAY, TADASHI—.
H...
.....
NOW AND FOREVER, ALWAYS THE TWO OF US...
NOW IT'S SO EMBARRASSING...
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

1+1

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY SUKIMA SWITCH

I WANT TO SPEND ALL DAY GAZING AT YOUR FACE, YEAH
MAYBE YOU DON'T LIKE IT, BUT I'LL TAKE THAT EXPRESSION AS WELL

I WANT TO SPEND ALL NIGHT WRAPPED IN YOUR VOICE, YEAH
AND IF I HAPPEN TO FALL ASLEEP, FORGIVE ME STILL

MAYBE WE CAN ONLY MOVE FORWARD A STEP AT A TIME
BUT I'LL STILL WALK ON, HOLDING YOU TIGHT, NEVER LETTING GO

I'VE STILL GOT A WAYS TO GO, THOUGH I WON'T ADMIT IT
I PROMISE, FROM TODAY ON, I'LL START KEEPING THINGS IN MIND
DON'T GO ANYWHERE

NOW AND FOREVER, THE TWO OF US

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COMICS×MUSIC☆THE BIRTH OF A GREAT COLLABORATION!

JUST LIKE THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 15 YEARS...
THE TIME WAS 11:30P.M.
...ALL THE ROADS IN THIS CITY THAT IS ILL-PREPARED FOR SUCH NATURAL DISASTERS, WERE SHUT DOWN DUE TO SNOWFALL.
YOU'RE WALKING TOO FAST!!
YOU'RE SO MEAN!!
AREN'T YOU JUST TOO SLOW?
IT'S FREEZING, SO GET A MOVE ON!

HER EYELINER AND MASCARA IS ALL SMEARED FROM HER TEARS AND THE SNOW AND THE MOISTURE'S MADE HER CURLED HAIR ALL POOFY
LIKE A PANDA MEDUSA
HOWEVER CUTESY SHE MAY ACT...
BECAUSE! LIKE I SAID BECAUSE OF THE SNOW!
AND THERE AREN'T ANY TAXIS!
EVEN SO, I STILL WON'T COME TO HATE YOU
BECAUSE! THE SNOW
AND ANYWAY, WHY ARE THE TRAINS STOPPED!?
EVEN SO, I STILL WON'T COME TO HATE YOU
AND I SAID THAT IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SLOW!
I'M ASKING BECAUSE LIKE I SAID YOU'RE WALKING TOO FAST!
DON'T YOU KNOW ANY OTHER WORDS!?
STOP SAYING, "BECAUSE, BECAUSE"!
SAYING IT RIGHT AFTER YELLING AT ME FOR SAYING IT
WHAT AN IDIOT

YOU WERE WAY NICER!
WHAAA?
IT DIDN'T USED TO BE LIKE THIS
MELTER
~~~~
AND MATCHING MY PACE WHEN WE WERE WALKING!
NOT YELLING, OR SAYING MEAN THINGS
OKAY, FINE
THEN I'M GOING HOME ALONE
Eh?
HERE IT COMES PANDA MEDUSA'S SIGNATURE MOVE.
I'VE HAD IT! WE'RE BREAKING UP!
~~~~

THE 1 YEAR, 7 MONTHS, AND 13 DAYS WE WENT OUT WAS A COMPLETE WASTE!!
AND THEN AT THE END, LIGHTLY THROWING IN THE EXACT AMOUNT OF DAYS WE'VE BEEN DATING, SAYING THAT ALL THAT TIME WITH ME WAS A WASTE.
WHAT THE!?
LOSING HER TEMPER
AND QUICKLY YELLING "WE'RE BREAKING UP"
I WON'T COME TO HATE YOU.
BUT IT'S OKAY.
after
BUT PUTTING ALL THAT EFFORT INTO MAKING UP HER FACE SO THAT HER EYES LOOK THREE TIMES BIGGER THAT EFFORT..
I DON'T HATE.
before
WHEN PANDA MEDUSA'S NOT WEARING MAKE-UP, HER EYES LOOK ONE THIRD THE SIZE.
HONESTLY, SHE'S PRETTY PLAIN LOOKING

...AND THAT YOU'RE NOT TERRIBLY BRIGHT...
...I DON'T HATE THOSE THINGS.
...UPON SEEING THE WHITENESS OF YOUR BREATH DUE TO THE COLD.
THERE'S REALLY AIR THERE, HUH!!?
Look! See!
YOUR SIMPLE-MINDEDNESS WHEN YOU EXCLAIMED...
...ARE MORE NUMEROUS THAN ALL THIS SNOW.
THOSE THINGS ABOUT THE PANDA MEDUSA WHO KNOWS IT'S BEEN 1 YEAR, 7 MONTHS, AND 13 DAYS.
...I KNOW THE WAY TO MAKE HER SMILE RIGHT AWAY.
HOWEVER AWFUL A FACE SHE MAY MAKE AFTER WE FIGHT...
I ALSO HAVE A SIGNATURE MOVE.
IT'S OKAY.

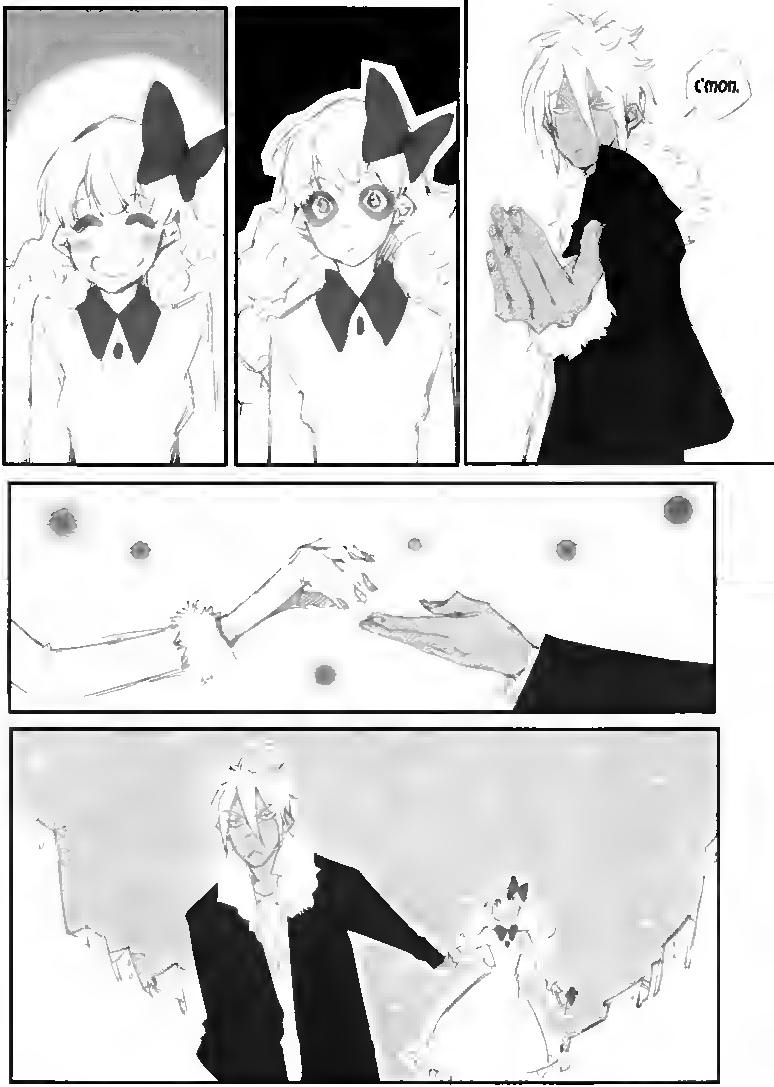
PANDA MEDUSA CAN'T WHISTLE
EVER SINCE SHE WAS A KID, NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE'S PRACTICED, SHE'S NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DO IT

SO ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WHISTLE...
AND JUST LIKE THAT, SHE'LL

AFTER PRACTICING FOR 1 YEAR, 7 MONTHS, AND 12 DAYS, THIS MORNING, ON THE 13TH DAY, I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO WHISTLE!
I CAN DO IT NOW.
WELL, LATER!!
THEN
IT WASN'T A WASTE, WAS IT?

?
SO THE 1 YEAR, 7 MONTHS, AND 13 DAYS WE'VE GONE OUT...
WEREN'T A WASTE!
AFTER 1 YEAR, 7 MONTHS, AND 12 DAYS OF PRACTICING BY MIMICKING ME, YOU'RE FINALLY ABLE TO WHISTLE, RIGHT?
THAT MEANS I MUST'VE BEEN USEFUL TO YOU.

Oh YEAH!
Hmph!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH


c'mon.

FUYU NO KUCHIBUE
("THE WHISTLE OF WINTER")

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY SUKIMA SWITCH

ISN'T IT CHILDISH TO POUT LIKE THAT?
I WON'T MAKE YOU FEEL INSECURE ANYMORE, LIKE I DID IN THE PAST
BY FEELING "HAPPINESS," YOU'LL GRADUALLY GROW ACCUSTOMED TO IT
WHEN IT'S A COLD DAY, YOU CAN'T PULL TOO FAR AWAY FROM ME

EXCLAIMING HOW YOUR BREATH SHINES BRIGHTLY LIKE SMOKE
AND THIS YEAR AS WELL YOU JUST SWOOP DOWN ON ME LIKE THAT

THAT REVERBERATING TIMBRE IS THE WHISTLE OF WINTER
WITHOUT PAUSING TO STOP, LET'S GO WARMLY, TOGETHER.

I COULD NEVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "BE QUIET AND HURRY UP"
I WANT US TO GO WALKING AT THE SAME PACE

IT CERTAINLY IS HARD TO BELIEVE IN THINGS WITHOUT FORM
BUT IF YOU'RE HERE I'M SURE WE CAN BEAT THIS COLD WINTRY WIND.

SHOULDERS PRESSED TOGETHER SO AS TO KEEP FROM FREEZING,
BUT IT'S THERE UNSPOKEN.
I GENTLY TAKE HOLD OF YOUR HAND

LIKE THE LIGHT SNOW NOT MELTING, NOR CRUSHING
OUR SEASON WILL CONTINUE FROM HERE ON.

THAT REVERBERATING TIMBRE IS THE WHISTLE OF WINTER
WITHOUT PAUSING TO STOP, LET'S CHERISH THIS

LINKED TOGETHER, MY HEART WARMS
LET'S GATHER UP THESE "ACCUMULATED FALLEN MIRACLES,"
AND GO ON CARRYING THEM. WITHOUT LETTING THEM OVERFLOW
FOREVER, FROM HERE ON. TOGETHER.

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...seemed down-trodden.
What would you do for that someone ...!?
What if... somewhere, someone who was doing their best...
COMICS ×MUSIC× THE ULTIMATE COLLABORATION!
GENRE FUSION! THE FINAL STORY OF THE SERIES
スキマ式。
Sukima-shiki
COMIC STORY
佐原ミズ×スキマスイッチ
Mizu Sahara×Sukimaswitch
LAST SONG♬ZENRYOKU SHOUNEN
(From the album "Kousou Clip")

REDS, GREENS, AND YELLOWS. WHEN I WAS A CHILD, THEY WERE MY EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, AND GAVE ME ENERGY WHENEVER I FELT FRUSTRATED.

KIMIKA...
KNOCK KNOCK
KIMIKA, IT'S TIME FOR DINNER...
YOU DIDN'T EAT LUNCH EITHER, DID YOU? THIS ISN'T HEALTHY.
...I'LL LEAVE IT OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR.
JUST A BIT IS FINE, SO PLEASE EAT SOMETHING

I'M WORRIED. SHE'S NOT GETTING ENOUGH TO EAT...
I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED AT WORK?
SHE'S BEEN HOLED UP IN HER ROOM FOR A WEEK NOW...
THEY SAY SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN ARE MORE SENSITIVE TO SMALL SETBACKS.
WE SHOULD KEEP AN EYE ON HER.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE WATER LINES IS IN PROGRESS
PLEASE PARDON THE INCONVENIENCE.
AH! SORRY, ONLY ONE CAR MAY PASS AT A TIME
PLEASE STOP!

SCREECH
BA
!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO MY CAR!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO IGNORED DIRECTIONS!
NOBODY DIRECTED ME TO DO ANYTHING!
WAI..
HOLD ON!
I SAW NO SUCH THING.
PLEASE DON'T PLAY DUMB, I GAVE YOU THE SIGNAL!
I DID SIGNAL YOU TO STOP
WHAT'S GOING ON, PART-TIMER!?
STARTING FIGHTS!? YOU'RE FIRED!
WHAT..

I WAS DIRECTING TRAFFIC AS I WAS SUPPOSED TO...
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH! PLEASE BELIEVE ME!
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH! PLEASE BELIEVE ME!
I SPENT HALF A YEAR COMING UP WITH THAT PROJECT!
WHAT? SO IT WASN'T ACTUALLY YOUR IDEA?

OVERLY SELF-CONFIDENT WOMEN ALWAYS TRY TO DISPLAY THEIR POWER.
WHEN IT COMES TO IDEAS, IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR THERE TO BE SOME SIMILARITIES.
THAT'S AN AWFUL ACCUSATION TO MAKE JUST BECAUSE YOURS IS A LITTLE LIKE MINE.
REALLY...
IT'S SO UNSIGHTLY...

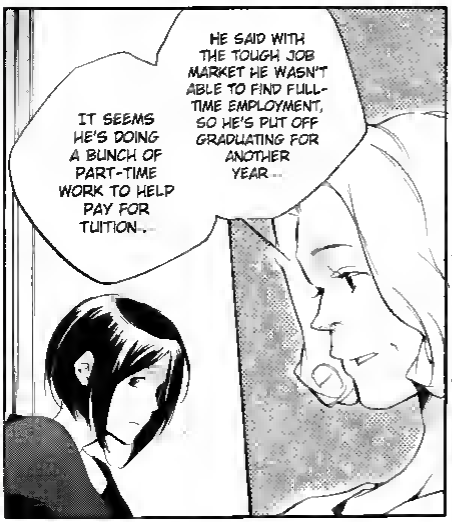
BUT THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS.
YOU KEEP INSISTING THAT THE DRIVER WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION TO YOUR DIRECTIONS...
IT'S TRUE...
I DIRECTED HIM TO STOP...
BUT AN ACCIDENT DID HAPPEN
NO...
I...
...THERE ISN'T..

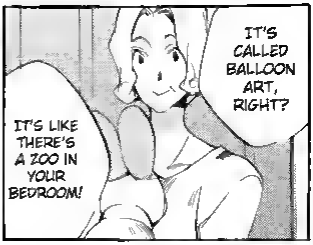
HE DIRECTED THE DRIVER TO STOP.
I WAS WATCHING FROM THAT WINDOW OVER THERE.
THIS MAN DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

I LIVE IN THAT HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET.
IF YOU NEED ME TO MAKE A STATEMENT, YOU CAN COME CALL ON ME.
UH...
O.. OKAY..

H...
HELLO...
OH, SEMA! YOU'VE COME AGAIN
Y...
YEAH.
UMM, IS KIMIKA STILL IN HER ROOM TODAY?
YES, IT'S A BIT EMBARRASSING TO ADMIT, BUT...
...SHE'S KIND OF DEPRESSED RIGHT NOW...
I...
I SEE...
THEN COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE THIS TO HER AS WELL?

HERE.
IT'S FROM THAT BOY AGAIN
...


HE SAID WITH THE TOUGH JOB MARKET HE WASN'T ABLE TO FIND FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT, SO HE'S PUT OFF GRADUATING FOR ANOTHER YEAR...
IT SEEMS HE'S DOING A BUNCH OF PART-TIME WORK TO HELP PAY FOR TUITION..


IT'S CALLED BALLOON ART, RIGHT?
IT'S LIKE THERE'S A ZOO IN YOUR BEDROOM!

HOW STUPID...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS UPSETTING YOU...
BUT AS SOMEONE WHO'S SPENDING EVERY DAY AT HOME BEING LOOKED AFTER BY YOUR PARENTS, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE...
...TO INSULT SOMEONE WHO'S GOING TO SUCH TROUBLE TO COME SEE YOU DESPITE HOW BUSY HE IS?
...
HERE, TAKE THIS.
IT'S A TICKET FOR THE AMUSEMENT PARK HE'S WORKING AT.
HE SAID TO PLEASE USE IT TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN...
PLEASE!
I CAN'T GO TO A PLACE LIKE THAT AT MY AGE...
OH, WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THE SORT OF PLACE THAT'S BEST AT CHEERING YOU UP.
!

WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, IF YOU HAD A BAD DAY...
AND WE TOOK YOU TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK. YOUR GLUM EXPRESSION WOULD CHANGE TO A CHEERY ONE IN A FLASH
SHUT
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT AND JUST GO.
IT WOULD MAKE YOUR FATHER AND I HAPPY TOO.

FIVE BUCKS FOR A BALLOON?
THAT'S FRIGGEN' EXPENSIVE!
YOU'RE PRETTY UPPITY FOR A RABBIT.
...IT FEELS STUPID TO COME HERE TO MOPE BY MYSELF.
THIS PLACE IS ALWAYS SO EXCESSIVELY CHEERFUL...

AHAHA! WHAT A LOSER!
!
?

You're a brave girl not crying! Here I'll give you this
.....
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
IF YOU STOP CRYING I'LL GIVE YOU THIS.
TRUTH-FULLY...
...IT DIDN'T MATTER HOW OLD I GOT, I OFTEN CAME HERE WHEN I WAS HAVING A BAD DAY...

GOOD WORK!
AREN'T YOU IN YOUR FOURTH YEAR OF COLLEGE? AREN'T YOU TOO BUSY FOR PART-TIME WORK?
WELL, ACTUALLY...
I SPENT SO MUCH TIME GOING TO JOB INTERVIEWS THAT MY ATTENDANCE WAS INSUFFICIENT AND I HAD TO REPEAT A YEAR.

HERE, REFRESHMENTS... FOR THE POOR GUY.
THAT SUCKS...
NO, IT'S NOT FROM HIM!
A VISITOR LEFT IT FOR YOU
REALLY? THANKS!
EVEN THOUGH TIMES ARE TOUGH FOR ALL OF US
YEAH, THIS PRETTY WOMAN IN A BLACK SUIT BROUGHT IT BY EARLIER
I BET SHE'S ACTUALLY MY FAN!
A VISITOR?
I...
I GOTTA GO!
HURRY!
UNDO THE ZIPPER
ON MY BACK, PLEASE!
Huh?
UH...
EH?

clack
clack
clack

Eh?
wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
OH
Y... YEAH
GOOD EVENING.
GOOD EVENING! I'M FINALLY ABLE TO MEET YOU!!
I... I MADE IT!
.....

N... NO!!
IT WAS A BIG DEAL TO ME!
IT WAS SO LIFE-ALTERING I COULDN'T HELP BUT FALL FOR YOU...
UMM... WHAT I DID WASN'T THAT BIG OF A DEAL
I'M HAPPY FOR YOUR GRATITUDE BUT NOW I'M STARTING TO FEEL INDEBTED...
THANK YOU FOR THE BALLOONS EVERYDAY, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SO BUSY
AH... UHH
SO...
N... NO. SORRY THAT'S ALL I CAN GIVE YOU.
IF I HAD THE MEANS, I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING BETTER
TRUTHFULLY, I WAS DEPRESSED FOR A LONG TIME...
I'M NOT REALLY SUCH A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY PERSON...
U... UM...

EVERY TIME I WAS REJECTED I FELT MYSELF GIVE UP ON THE THINGS I WANTED TO DO, ONE BY ONE.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ANYMORE WHAT IT WAS I ORIGINALLY WANTED TO BECOME
AFTER THE NUMBER OF COMPANIES THAT REJECTED ME PASSED THE DOUBLE DIGITS, I COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL DOWN.
EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD ...
JUST HOW BAD THE JOB MARKET IS.
THINKING, "IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYONE WATCHING TO SEE WHAT I DO ANYWAY."
BUT...
I WAS WATCHING.

NO MATTER WHAT, I WANTED TO MEET YOU ONCE MORE AND EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE...
BUT YOU WOULDN'T COME OUT OF YOUR ROOM EVEN FOR A BIT, SO I ALMOST STARTED TO GET DEPRESSED AGAIN!
THERE WAS NO ONE WHO WOULD BELIEVE IN WHAT I HAD TO SAY.
THE BOSSES AT MY PART-TIME JOBS, INTERVIEWERS,
...ONLY YOU.
I...
I'M SORRY...
ACTUALLY, I FAILED THE JOB INTERVIEW FOR A FULL-TIME POSITION AT THAT THEME PARK.
BUT AFTER MEETING YOU I REALIZED THAT EVEN WORKING THERE PART-TIME WOULD BE OKAY, AND DECIDED TO GO FOR IT.
EH...

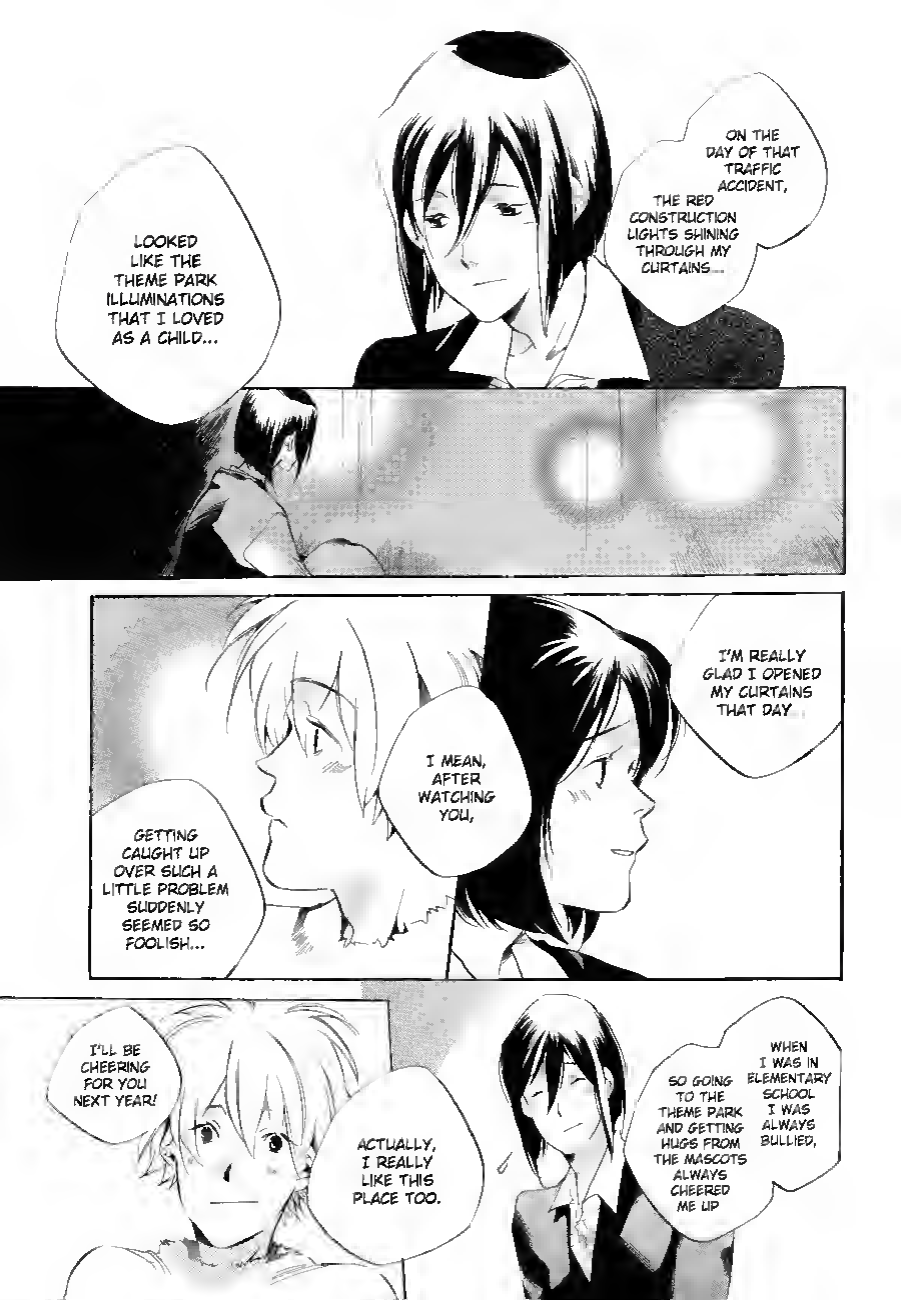
THEME PARKS ARE ALWAYS SO ABSURDLY BRIGHT AND LIVELY...
THAT I THOUGHT IT MIGHT FORCIBLY PULL ME OUT OF MY SLUMP
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED THEME PARKS
AND I WAS THINKING IT'D BE A WASTE TO GIVE UP AFTER ONLY FAILING ONCE...
ACTUALLY I WAS WORRIED YOU MIGHT DISLIKE...
SUCH A CHILDISH PLACE.
BUT I'M REALLY HAPPY YOU CAME TODAY.
WELL, I HAVE TO HEAD OFF TO MY NEXT PART TIME JOB SOON.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
AT MY JOB EARLIER I GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH SOME CHEEKY SCHOOL KIDS, BUT SINCE I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO MEET YOU I GUESS THINGS EVENED OUT.

YOU CAN MAKE SOMEONE REALLY HAPPY...
JUST BY COMING OUT OF YOUR ROOM.
I'LL COME AGAIN!
SO PLEASE DON'T HIDE YOURSELF AWAY ANYMORE.

OH, WELCOME HOME.
HOW WAS THE THEME PARK?
WERE YOU ABLE TO ENJOY YOURSELF?
YEAH.
IT WAS FUN
THAT'S WONDERFUL.
—I MEAN—
WE'RE HAPPY AS LONG YOU'RE HAPPY, KIMIKA.
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY, MOM.
I'LL GO BACK TO WORK STARTING TOMORROW.

OH?
Hmm...
TAKE CARE.
YEAH..
HERE YOU ARE!
I WANNA BALLOON!

I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF WORK...
ACTUALLY, I'M GOING TO MY JOB FROM HERE
YESTERDAY I CALLED AND IT SEEMS LIKE I STILL HAVE MY POSITION...
NO, IT'S NOT A PROBLEM
YOU HEAR ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME...
I WAS DECEIVED BY A GUY AND HAD MY PROJECT STOLEN.
I TRIED TO CALL HIM OUT ON IT, BUT THEY TOOK IT AS THE BITTER GRUMBLINGS OF A SORE LOSER...
THAT'S AWFUL...
IT WAS SO FRUSTRATING, AND I FELT SO PATHETIC...
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO GO TO WORK.
BUT THANKS TO YOU, I WAS ABLE TO GET OVER IT BEFORE IT TURNED INTO SOMETHING HUGE.


ON THE DAY OF THAT TRAFFIC ACCIDENT,
THE RED CONSTRUCTION LIGHTS SHINING THROUGH MY CURTAINS...
LOOKED LIKE THE THEME PARK ILLUMINATIONS THAT I LOVED AS A CHILD...
I'M REALLY GLAD I OPENED MY CURTAINS THAT DAY.
I MEAN, AFTER WATCHING YOU,
GETTING CAUGHT UP OVER SUCH A LITTLE PROBLEM SUDDENLY SEEMED SO FOOLISH...
WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL I WAS ALWAYS BULLIED,
SO GOING TO THE THEME PARK AND GETTING HUGS FROM THE MASCOTS ALWAYS CHEERED ME UP.
ACTUALLY, I REALLY LIKE THIS PLACE TOO.
I'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU NEXT YEAR!

EH?
WHAAAT? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO SOONER?
Huh?
Come here!!
HAHAHA! NAH..
I'M JUST KID...

.. DING?
THANK YOU.
I'LL BE OFF, THEN.

HUG
O...
OKAY.

HAVE
A GOOD
DAY.

ZENRYOKU SHOUNEN
("FULL-POWER BOY")

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY SUKIMA SWITCH

IF I TRIP AND FALL, I'LL BE LEFT FOR DEAD
TODAY TOO, STUMBLING FORWARD THROUGH MUDDY WATERS

MY DIRTY WORLD / NO LIGHTHEARTED TALK OR THE LIKE
DEEPLY INGRAINED WITH THE LOGIC OF ISOLATION, CAN'T WIPE IT AWAY

EVEN THOUGH I DECIDED TO STAY HERE UNTIL I COULD TRY,
LIKE AN INCANTATION, MUTTERING, "IT'S NO USE."

CRUSH EVERYTHING THAT'S ACCUMULATED /
DESTROY EVERYTHING YOU'VE LEARNED
NO END POINT, WITH BLOOD AND SWEAT MOISTEN YOUR DRIED UP BRAIN
BACK THEN WE WERE BOYS GOING AT FULL POWER.

WHO WILL OPEN UP THE WORLD?

IF YOU FORGET HOW TO FLY YOU'LL GROW OLD AND WITHER
THIS PLACE IS WORK ONLY / WE'RE FORGETTING HOW TO LAUGH

THERE MUST BE LOTS OF SPARKLY THINGS IN ALL THIS RUBBISH RIGHT?
BEFORE THE "IMPORTANT THINGS" GET BURIED COMPLETELY

KNOCK AWAY EVERYTHING THAT OBSTRUCTS YOU /
EVADE ALL THE THINGS THAT ENSNARE YOU
NO END POINT, WITH BLOOD AND TEARS MOISTEN YOUR THIRSTY HEART
BACK THEN WE WERE BOYS GOING AT FULL POWER.

IF YOU'RE FRIGHTENED YOU'LL NEVER ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING

QUIT SEEKING OUT ANSWERS IN A STAGNANT LANDSCAPE!
WITH NEW ASPIRATIONS YOU'LL SWIFTLY CROSS THE MUDDIED WATERS

CRUSH EVERYTHING THAT'S ACCUMULATED /
DESTROY EVERYTHING YOU'VE LEARNED
THE CURVE OF THAT STACK OF FILED UP DREAMS THAT WERE DRAWN
WE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FOREVER BE BOYS GOING AT FULL POWER!

THE ONE WHO OPENS UP THE WORLD IS ME!

MY FIELD OF VISION IS ALREADY PERFECTLY CLEAR.

SUKIMA SHIKI
LAST SONG - THE END

Sukima-shiki
(Sukima Style)
by Sahara Rize
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